

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Matthew O. Savage at Facsimile No. 703-872-9306, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. Dated December 29, 2003  
 Signature   
 Dated December 29, 2003 Signature   
 (David J. Rankin)

Docket No.: HHI-031US  
 (PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Parent Application of:  
 Wilhelm Ardes

Application No.: 09/890588

Art Unit: 1723

Filed: November 21, 2001

Examiner: Matthew O. Savage

For: FLUID FILTER WITH REMOVABLE  
 CENTRAL COMPONENT WITH  
 ADDITIONAL RETAINER

DEC 29 2003  
**OFFICIAL**

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated August 28, 2003, the response period of which is extended to Monday, December 29, 2003 by the accompanying Request for Extension of Time, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

01/20/2004 RHOLLAND 00000001 120080 09890588  
 01 FC:1251 110.00 DA